



SUSTAINABILITY REPORT

VARESE

31 JULY
2 AUGUST
2026

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HIGHLIGHTS

5.000 euros dedicated to sustainability

3 water dispensers installed

2.000 reusable ecocups given to participants

500 branded water bottles for staff and volunteers

13 sustainability-related Instagram posts

5 eco-volunteers recruited

2 venue cleanups organised during the event

3 environmental organisations engaged

10.286 water bottles avoided

52 waste sorting bins positioned throughout the venue

3 hybrid cars and **1** electric minibus rented

7,62 km average hotel distance from event venue

1 Anti-Discrimination policy in place

0 reports to the event safeguarding officer

1 press conference exclusively dedicated to sustainability

1 sustainability guide with 4 tips

30 sustainability signs positioned on site

1. INTRODUCTION

The European Rowing Championships Varese 2026 took place from 31 July to 2 August at the Schiranna rowing course on Lake Varese, bringing together more than 40 nations and over 2.000 athletes, coaches and national team staff, as well as representatives of international federations, technical officials, volunteers, media representatives and spectators from Italy and abroad.

Events of this scale generate significant sport, social and economic benefits for the host territory, contributing to the promotion of local culture, the development of tourism and the encouragement of sport participation. At the same time, the presence of thousands of participants and spectators inevitably leads to a range of environmental and social impacts that must be carefully managed. These include energy and water consumption, waste generation, transport-related emissions, the use of materials and resources, as well as the effects on local communities and the natural environment hosting the event.

Aware of these potential impacts, the OC has developed a Sustainability Plan to integrate sustainable principles and practices into every stage of the event's planning, organisation and delivery. The Plan set out the objectives, actions and tools through which the OC intended to minimise the event's negative impacts while maximising its positive outcomes, contributing to environmental protection, people's wellbeing and the creation of shared value for the local community and the wider territory.

This **Sustainability Report** represents the OC's accountability against the Sustainability Plan. It provides an overview of all actions implemented to achieve the sustainability goals, useful data collected during the event and general considerations on the event's sustainability performance.

The OC has always considered sustainability as a journey built progressively through effective planning, concrete actions, measurable results and a genuine commitment to reflect, learn and improve. In that same spirit, **this Report includes both the positive and the negative sides of our sustainability performance**. For each of the four sustainability goals identified in our Plan, the document explains what did not go as planned and what could be done to reduce our negative impacts. We hope that this approach will provide useful insights to the future organisers of this event, as well as to all those who seek to integrate sustainability into the planning and delivery of rowing events around the world.

2. OUR PERFORMANCE

Being aware, on one side, of the wide range of environmental, social and economic impacts that may arise from hosting a major international rowing event and, on the other, of the importance of concentrating resources, time and expertise on those areas where there is greater potential to create shared value, the OC adopted an approach based on the principle of **doing less to achieve more**, prioritising a limited number of actions that are realistic, measurable and capable of generating meaningful and lasting positive impacts.

The four goals that guided the implementation of the sustainability strategy for the European Rowing Championships Varese 2026 were:

1. **Integrating sustainability into the governance of the event:** promote a culture of sustainability throughout the organisation by embedding sustainable principles, responsibilities and decision-making processes into the planning and delivery of the Championships.
2. **Reducing the environmental impacts of the event:** prevent, reduce and mitigate the environmental impacts associated with the organisation of the Championships, with particular attention to the protection of marine ecosystems, resource management, waste and event-related greenhouse gas emissions.
3. **Promoting inclusion, accessibility and wellbeing:** ensure that the event is accessible, welcoming and inclusive for all participants by promoting equal opportunities, wellbeing, safety and respect for diversity.
4. **Engaging and raising awareness among stakeholders through communication:** use the Championships as a platform to promote sustainability by communicating objectives, initiatives and results transparently, while encouraging responsible behaviour among athletes, volunteers, spectators, partners and the local community.

The following sections provide a detailed review of the actions implemented to achieve these four sustainability goals.

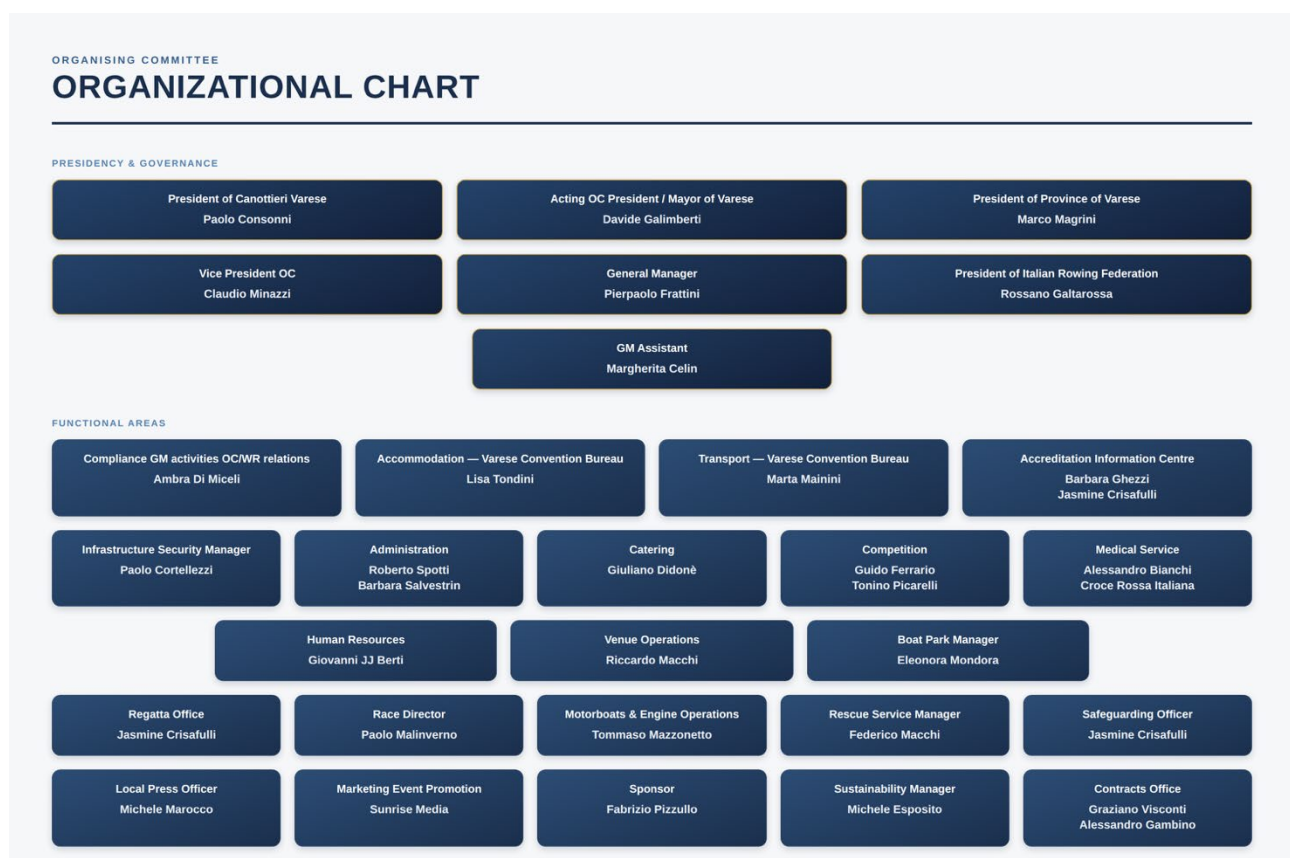
| 2.1 Governance

Governance is defined as “the system by which an organisation makes and implements decisions in pursuit of its objectives” (ISO 26000). It establishes how decisions are made, responsibilities are assigned and results are evaluated. For an event that aims to embed sustainability into its organisation, governance represents the starting point of its sustainability journey.

In that spirit, we decided to appoint a **Sustainability Manager**, a person exclusively in charge of developing, implementing and monitoring the sustainability performance of the

Championships. The word “exclusively” should not be underestimated: in many events, sustainability is often assigned as an additional responsibility to people who are already extremely busy working in other sectors, such as marketing or logistics. Since sustainability is a complex and broad area that requires time, knowledge and resources, this can ultimately affect the overall performance of the event. By giving sustainability a dedicated position within the organisational structure, we ensured that this important area received the attention and priority it deserved.

This was also confirmed by how the Sustainability Manager was presented to the public: **for the first time ever in World Rowing history**, the Sustainability Manager was introduced to all team leaders and sat next to the Championships’ General Manager during the official Team Manager meeting.



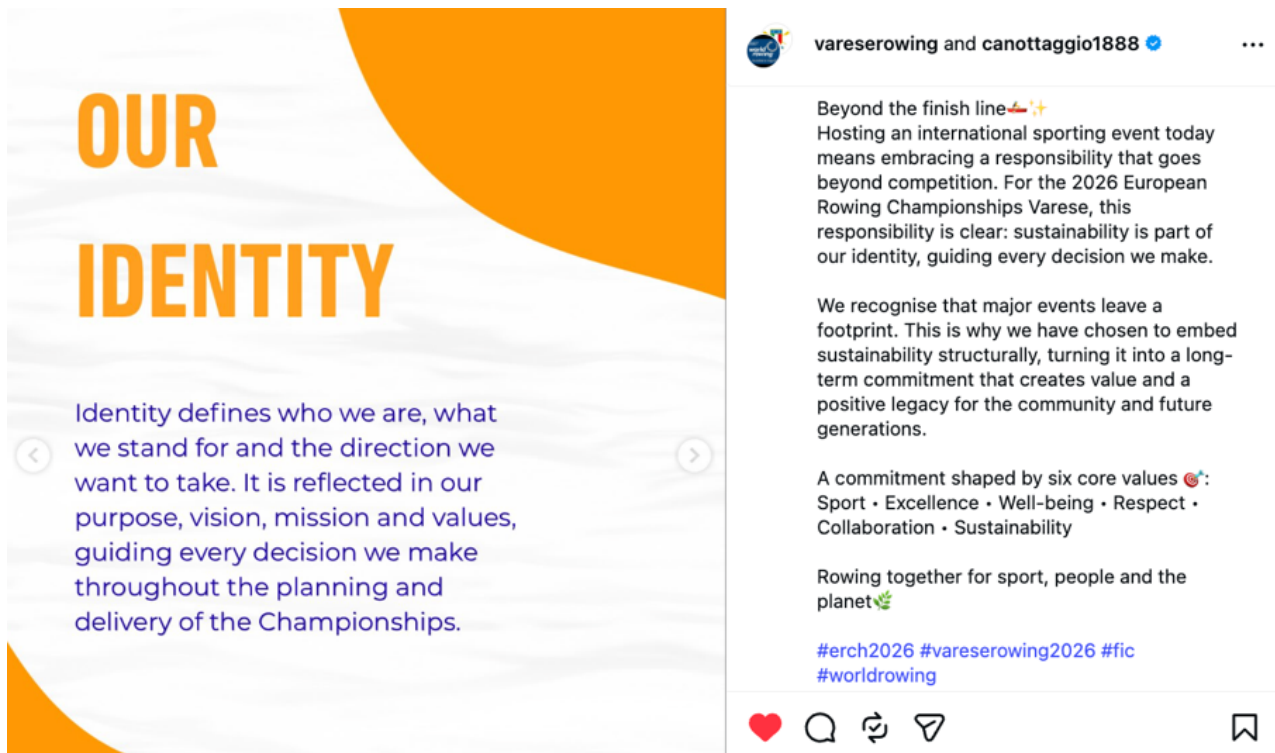
Another important decision was the allocation of a **dedicated sustainability budget** of EUR 5.000,00 (five thousand euros), to be managed at the discretion of the Sustainability Manager with the approval of the Championships General Manager. The budget was fully used for the design and production of sustainability documents and signage, reusable cups and communication materials, as well as for the two site visits made by the Sustainability Manager before the event.

Once appointed, the Sustainability Manager worked with other members of the OC to define the Championships’ **sustainable identity** (Purpose, Vision, Mission and Values). The process followed a top-down approach to ensure consistency between the OC’s strategic

direction and all aspects of the event's planning and delivery. The final result is detailed in the table below.

OUR SUSTAINABLE IDENTITY	
Purpose	To promote rowing as a driver of sustainable development, creating lasting value for people, the local area and future generations.
Vision	To establish the 2026 European Rowing Championships Varese as a benchmark for sustainability within the international rowing community.
Mission	To integrate sustainability into the organisation of the 2026 European Rowing Championships Varese by actively engaging stakeholders to maximise positive impacts, minimise negative ones and create a lasting legacy for the local area, the community and future generations.
Values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Sport</u>: we believe in the power of sport to bring people together, inspire positive behaviours and contribute to the development of communities. • <u>Excellence</u>: we pursue the highest sport and organisational standards, promoting quality, professionalism and continuous improvement. • <u>Wellbeing</u>: we place people at the centre of everything we do, promoting health, safety and inclusion for all participants. • <u>Respect</u>: we act with respect towards people, communities, cultures, rules and the environment. • <u>Collaboration</u>: we value dialogue, participation and teamwork. • <u>Sustainability</u>: we guide our decisions towards creating lasting environmental, social and economic benefits while respecting the needs of present and future generations.

Our sustainable identity was shared online through a dedicated post on the event's official Instagram account.



The next step was **identifying the event's key stakeholders**. Stakeholders are individuals or organisations that can influence, be influenced by, or perceive themselves to be influenced by a decision or activity. They include those with rights and needs, as well as, more broadly, those who have an interest in the organisation and its ability to respond to their legitimate expectations. Stakeholders can be divided into two main categories. Internal stakeholders are individuals or groups within the organisation who are directly involved in the management and delivery of the event. External stakeholders, on the other hand, are individuals or organisations that are not directly part of the organisation but may influence or be affected by the event. The diagram below identifies the main stakeholders of the European Rowing Championships Varese 2026.

VARESE 2026
STAKEHOLDER MAP



The Sustainability Manager then proceeded to develop the Championships' **Sustainability Plan**, taking into account the sustainable identity of the event, the expectations of its stakeholders, the context in which the Championships were held and the available resources. The final result was a 19-page document setting out 4 sustainability goals and 40 planned actions to achieve them, published one month before the event in both Italian and English on the Championships' official website: <https://vareserowing.com/sostenibilita/>.



1. INTRODUCTION

The European Rowing Championships Varese 2026, scheduled from 31 July to 2 August at the Schiranna rowing course on Lake Varese, represents one of the most prestigious events on the international rowing calendar. The Championships will bring together more than 40 nations and over 2,000 athletes, coaches and national team staff, as well as representatives of international federations, technical officials, volunteers, media representatives and spectators from Italy and abroad.

The event is organised by the Organising Committee of the International Rowing Championships Varese, which includes the Varese Municipality, the Varese Province, the Italian Rowing Federation and the Varese Rowing Club. Thanks to the unique characteristics of Lake Varese and the experience gained through hosting numerous international competitions, the area is now recognised as one of the world's leading destinations for rowing.

Events of this scale generate significant sport, social and economic benefits for the host territory, contributing to the promotion of local culture, the development of tourism and the encouragement of sport participation. At the same time, the presence of thousands of participants and spectators inevitably leads to a range of environmental and social impacts that must be carefully managed. These include energy and water consumption, waste generation, transport-related emissions, the use of materials and resources, as well as the effects on local communities and the natural environment hosting the event.

Aware of the responsibilities associated with organising an international event of this scale, the Organising Committee has developed this Sustainability Plan to integrate sustainable principles and practices into every stage of the event's planning, organisation and delivery. The Plan sets out the objectives, actions and tools through which the Organising Committee intends to minimise the event's negative impacts while maximising its positive outcomes, contributing to environmental protection, people's wellbeing and the creation of shared value for the local community and the wider territory.

The Sustainability Plan is also intended to serve as a reference framework for the organisation of future international rowing events and as a best practice example for future sport events hosted in Varese, promoting an increasingly responsible and conscious approach to sports event management.



To ensure that all planned actions could be realised, the OC strengthened the sustainability team by recruiting **5 eco-volunteers**. These volunteers played a key role in raising awareness of the United Nations' 17 Sustainable Development Goals, moving around the venue with the official 2030 Agenda flag and taking pictures with athletes and spectators.





The eco-volunteers were made clearly visible and distinguishable from the other volunteers by making them wear a **dedicated t-shirt** that recalled the 17 SDGs, the event's official sustainability claim "**Rowing together for sport, people, and the planet**" and their role as eco-volunteers.



On Friday 31 July, during the first day of competition, the Italian Rowing Hub hosted a dedicated sustainability talk titled **“Oltre la Regata: il Canottaggio Sostenibile.”** The session brought together key actors and partners, including FIC President Rossano Galtarossa, Vice President and Board Member Fabrizio Quaglino, Maïke Betts representing World Rowing, Olympic athlete and World Champion Luca Chiumento, Paris 2024 Paralympic bronze medallist Giacomo Perini, FIC clothing sponsor S74 (which also created the eco-volunteer shirts) and piublu ETS, one of the event’s sustainability partners.



Giovanni Esposito, Secretary General of the Italian Rowing Federation, opened the session by outlining the Federation’s journey towards a more sustainable development model. His presentation focused on FIC’s sustainability vision, its Guidelines for Sustainable Events and examples of good practices already implemented at other international events, including the Memorial Paolo d’Aloja.



Luca Chiumento, who recently concluded a Master's program in sustainability, introduced the concept of the **Green Table**, highlighting the importance of maintaining a balance between the economic, environmental, social and sport dimensions of sustainability to support sound governance and the long-term development of sport organisations.



The session concluded with a presentation by Michele Esposito, Sustainability Manager of Varese 2026, who outlined the sustainability approach and actions implemented to reduce the overall impact of the event.



The talk provided an opportunity to share the event's sustainability vision with the wider rowing community, while raising awareness of the role that sport events can play in reducing their environmental impact while generating a positive and lasting legacy for the local community.



What did not go as planned

- We initially planned an online sustainability training for all volunteers in collaboration with our sustainability partner 5R Zero Sprechi. However, due to communication and IT issues, we failed to organise the online meeting. As an alternative, piublu delivered an on-site training shortly before the official venue clean-up, which was attended by all eco-volunteers and some of the other volunteers involved in the activity.

What could be improved

- Strengthen the position of the Sustainability Manager by placing the role directly under the Championships' General Manager, rather than at the same level as the other operational areas. This would allow the Sustainability Manager to have a broader overview of the organisation and ensure that sustainability is considered in all major decisions.
- Establish a Sustainability Committee within the organisation, bringing together representatives from different areas and with different skills and expertise. This would ensure a wider range of perspectives and support a more inclusive approach to sustainability.
- Make sustainability a mandatory requirement by including specific clauses in all contracts signed by the Organising Committee.
- Provide sustainability training to all volunteers before the event and extend it to staff and suppliers. This would ensure that everyone involved understands the event's sustainability objectives and their role in achieving them.

GOVERNANCE – SUMMARY	
<i>Planned actions</i>	<i>Completed?</i>
Appointment of a Sustainability Manager	Yes
Allocation of a dedicated Sustainability Budget	Yes
Development of a Sustainability Plan	Yes
Definition of the Championships' sustainable identity	Yes
Identification and engagement of key internal and external stakeholders	Yes
Online sustainability training for all staff members and volunteers	Partially
Sustainability Report published within two months of the event's conclusion	Yes

| 2.2 Environment

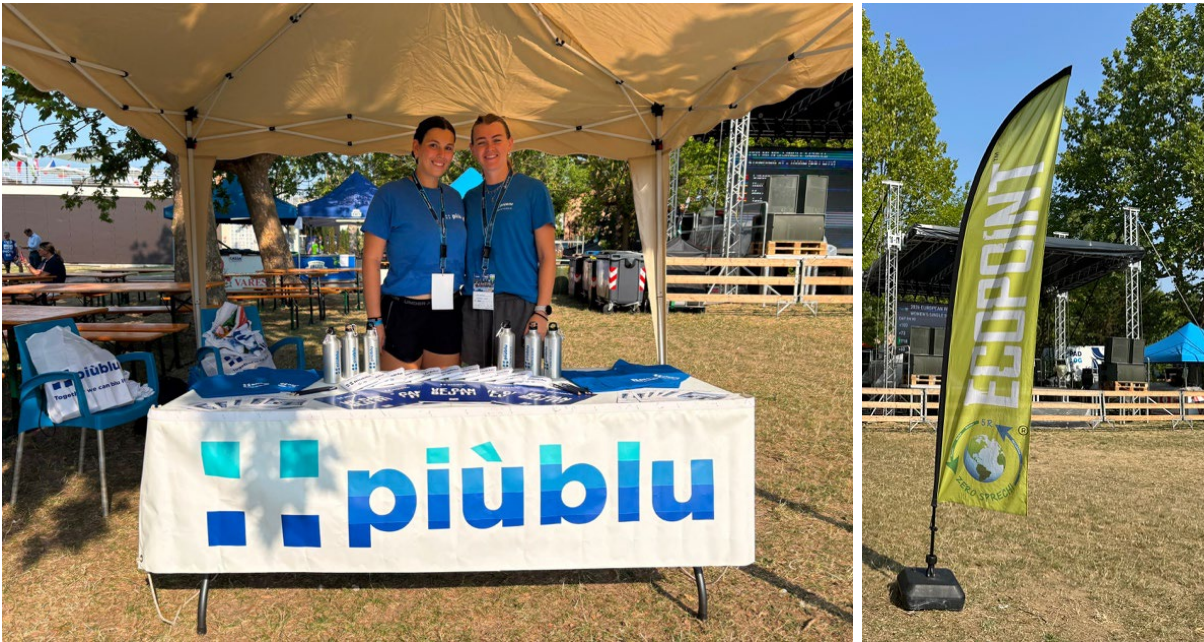
Sport events can have significant impacts on the environment through the consumption of resources, the generation of waste, the movement of people, and the use of goods and services required to deliver the competition. For the European Rowing Championships Varese 2026, environmental protection was particularly important due to the event's close connection with Lake Varese, which is a valuable natural resource for the local community and an important part of its environmental and cultural heritage.

2.2.1 Biodiversity

The event partnered with three environmental organisations:

- **piublu ETS** is a non-profit organisation dedicated to the protection of marine, lake and river ecosystems. During the Championships, piublu had a dedicated stand and two volunteers on site. It supported the OC in implementing the sustainability initiatives and carried out a sustainability questionnaire with athletes and spectators. Finally, the organisation also provided the gloves and litter pickers used during the clean-up activities.
- **5R Zero Sprechi** is a non-profit organisation promoting sustainability and the circular economy through the principles of the 5Rs: Reduce, Reuse, Repair, Recycle and Recover. For the Championships, the organisation provided a sail to identify the Ecopoint, as well as communication materials and signs displayed throughout the venue. An online waste management training for all volunteers was also planned in collaboration with 5R Zero Sprechi, but the meeting could not take place in the end due to communication and IT issues.
- **ASD Varese Sub** is a local diving association and part of the WWF S.U.B. network, which promotes the protection and cleanliness of marine and freshwater ecosystems.

The association contributed with its expertise in aquatic environmental protection and played a key role in the official clean-up activity held on Sunday.



Two venue clean-ups were organised during the Championships, one more than initially planned. The first took place on Saturday and involved piùblu ETS and the event's eco-volunteers. The second was held on Sunday morning and involved around 20 volunteers, with the support of piùblu ETS and ASD Varese SUB. On both occasions, volunteers walked around the venue collecting waste using gloves and litter pickers. The waste collected was then correctly sorted and disposed of in the appropriate waste bins.





To further protect biodiversity and the lake ecosystem, the OC raised awareness of **invasive non-native species** by placing two dedicated signs on site. Created by the UK Non-Native Species Secretariat as part of the “Stop the Spread” campaign, the signs included a brief description of invasive plants and animals and provided simple guidance on how to prevent their spread. Participants were encouraged to follow the “Check, Clean, Dry” approach: check your boats and equipment for plants, animals or mud, clean them thoroughly and let them dry before going back in another waterbody.



Finally, a dedicated post was published on July 28, **World Nature Conservation Day**, to raise awareness of biodiversity, promote our sustainability partners and encourage people to participate in the official venue clean-up.



What could be improved

- Involve staff members from other departments in the cleanup activities.
- Protect sensitive biodiversity areas by restricting access, since the event takes place in a natural park.
- Monitor and report the quantity and type of waste collected during clean-ups.

2.2.2 Waste management

Sport events bring a lot of people together in the same place at the same time, resulting in the generation of significant amounts of waste. With this in mind, the OC implemented a waste management strategy aimed, first, at minimising the amount of waste generated and, where waste could not be avoided, at ensuring that it was properly collected, sorted and managed.

We prioritised **digitalisation**: the most important documents, such as start lists and race schedules, were made available in digital format wherever possible, limiting printing to essential cases. This helped reduce paper consumption and avoid unnecessary waste after the event. Where printed materials and other physical items were necessary, we also aimed to reuse them for future events. In particular, signage and other materials were designed without event-specific dates wherever possible, allowing them to be stored and reused over time.

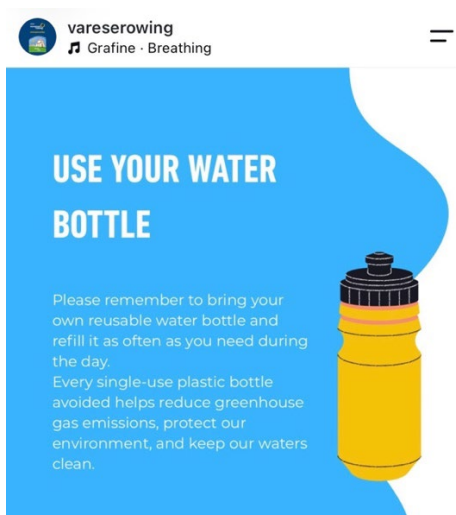
The OC also made significant efforts to minimise single-use plastics. **Three water refill stations** were installed on site, complementing the existing drinking fountains at the venue

and allowing participants, especially athletes, to freely refill and reuse their water bottles throughout the event.



The water refill stations dispensed a total of 5.143 litres of water, with an average of 1.286 litres per day, avoiding the use of 10.286 single-use plastic bottles of 0,5 litres. Based on the supplier's estimates, this resulted in savings of approximately 30.858 litres of water, 833 kg of crude oil, 494 kg of CO₂ and €822,88 in bottle disposal costs. It is interesting to note that the installation of water refill stations also generated a significant saving for the Organising Committee. Based on the supplier's calculation, at a cost of €1,62 per 0,5-litre bottle of water, **the collaboration resulted in an estimated saving of €8.331,66.**

This initiative was supported by dedicated communication encouraging participants to bring and refill their own reusable water bottles. Information was shared through the event website, social media channels and official documents, including the Team Manual. In addition, in collaboration with our partner TD Group, **all volunteers and staff members were provided with a reusable water bottle**, further encouraging the use of reusable alternatives to single-use plastic bottles.



Finally, we collaborated with 5R Zero Sprechi and AmicoBicchieri to produce and distribute **2.000 reusable, branded ecocup**s, an initiative that was highly appreciated by all our stakeholders. During the awarding ceremony organised by the Italian Rowing Federation at the Italian Rowing Hub, the ecocup were also handed out as gifts to all Italian athletes who won a medal at the Championships.



For waste that could not be avoided, a waste sorting was implemented throughout the venue. The system was planned and managed following three main phases:

- **Pre-event:** the Sustainability Manager worked with the waste management company to determine the appropriate number and type of waste bins based on the expected size of the event and the main visitor flows. Particular attention was given to high-traffic areas and locations where waste was more likely to be generated, such as the Athletes' Village and the food truck area. A total of **52 waste bins** were installed: 10 for organic waste, 14 for general waste, 14 for plastic, 10 for paper and 4 for glass. The bins were positioned a few days before the event, with arrangements made for them to be emptied once a day, early in the morning.



- **During the event:** signs featuring the “Rowing, Responsibly, Recycling” slogan, launched by the Italian Rowing Federation, were placed next to all waste collection points to encourage participants to dispose of their waste correctly. The Sustainability Manager and the eco-volunteers monitored the waste collection points on a daily basis and any issues, such as full bins or other waste management needs, were promptly reported to the waste management company to allow for timely intervention.



- **Post-event:** all waste collected during the Championships was weighed and recorded by waste type. The quantities collected are reported below.

WASTE COLLECTED – VARESE 2026					
	Paper	Plastics	Organic	Glass	Mixed
Friday 31/07	440 kg	360 kg	80 kg	50 kg	560 kg
Saturday 01/08	400 kg	380 kg	100 kg	50 kg	1.280 kg
Sunday 02/08	420 kg	420 kg	120 kg	30 kg	1.020 kg
TOTAL	1.260 kg	1.160 kg	300 kg	130 kg	2.860 kg

The event produced (at least) 5.710 kg of waste. The data clearly shows that more needs to be done to reduce mixed waste, which remains by far the largest category.

What did not go as planned

- Some areas of the venue were still being set up when the waste management company arrived. As a result, the bins could not be positioned according to the agreed plan and the OC had to manually relocate them once the structures had been installed.
- During the event, we also observed a significant amount of mixed waste collected in large bags and left next to the waste collection points. Based on our observations, these bags appeared to come mainly from the Team Tents, where teams were accumulating waste throughout the day and disposing of it in bulk rather than sorting it at source. This highlighted the need for clearer waste sorting procedures and closer engagement with teams before and during the event.

What could be improved

- Train and assign dedicated eco-volunteers to monitor waste collection points and support participants with correct waste sorting.
- Conduct a pre-event assessment of all materials to identify opportunities for reuse, reduction and waste prevention.
- Provide training for staff and volunteers on waste sorting.

| 2.2.3 Sustainable procurement

Sustainability considerations were integrated into the event's procurement processes, with an initial focus on identifying the goods and services that were essential for the delivery of the Championships, while also considering opportunities to avoid unnecessary purchases and adopt digital solutions where feasible. It is important to note that this approach represented a win-win for the OC because it helped to reduce the environmental impact associated with procurement while also generating cost savings.

For the remaining procurement needs, suppliers were selected by balancing sustainability considerations with the operational and financial requirements of the event. Where feasible, factors such as the supplier's geographical proximity, the characteristics of the materials provided and broader sustainability considerations were taken into account alongside quality, cost and the specific needs of the Championships.

Before the event, we specifically contacted some of our suppliers and partners to discourage the use of single-use gadgets and promotional materials, while encouraging the use of sustainable packaging for any goods or services provided on site. This communication led to positive results: all food trucks served food and provided cutlery in either paper or of compostable packaging, while the event's official restaurant Giulietta al Lago used reusable forks, knives, plates and glasses.



What did not go as planned

- Since it was not a contractual requirement, some single-use packaging and material was still handed out to participants, especially in the food truck area.

What could be improved

- Include sustainability clauses in supplier contracts, specifying environmental requirements for the materials, goods, services and packaging provided, as well as for their transportation.
- Conduct a comprehensive supply chain analysis to map supplier locations and assess their sustainability policies, certifications and practices.

| 2.2.4 Catering

Contrary to previous rowing events hosted in Varese, no dedicated catering structure was set up for the Championships. Instead, participants primarily ate at their official hotels, eliminating the need for temporary infrastructure, equipment and associated transport, therefore reducing the related environmental impacts.

To provide catering services on site and ensure that participants could still access a meal close to the lake, the OC collaborated with Giulietta al Lago, a restaurant located within the main event venue. Food quantities were planned based on registrations collected from participating teams in advance. Teams were asked to indicate how many of their members intended to use the restaurant, allowing the catering provider to align food preparation with actual demand and minimise unnecessary food waste.

Vegetarian options were made available throughout the Championships, both at Giulietta al Lago and at the official hotels. Vegetarian sandwiches were also available at the food trucks operating at the venue.

Finally, the OC promoted awareness of healthy eating among participants by placing two signs within the venue based on the **Healthy Eating Plate** developed by Harvard University, which provided practical guidance on balanced diet and healthy food choices.



What could be improved

- Increase the share of vegetarian meals offered to staff members, volunteers, athletes and spectators.
- Encourage participants to choose low-carbon options through dedicated signage.

2.2.5 Transportation

Transport was addressed as an important area for reducing the environmental impact of the Championships. All OC meetings, including training sessions, were conducted online, avoiding emissions associated with travel. Other meetings were held in person during the Championships, when participants and staff were already on site, therefore avoiding additional journeys.

Transport for participating delegations and OC staff was planned with a focus on efficiency, aiming to minimise the number of vehicles and journeys required. This was facilitated by the fact that many participants were accommodated within walking distance of the event venue, reducing the need for local transfers.

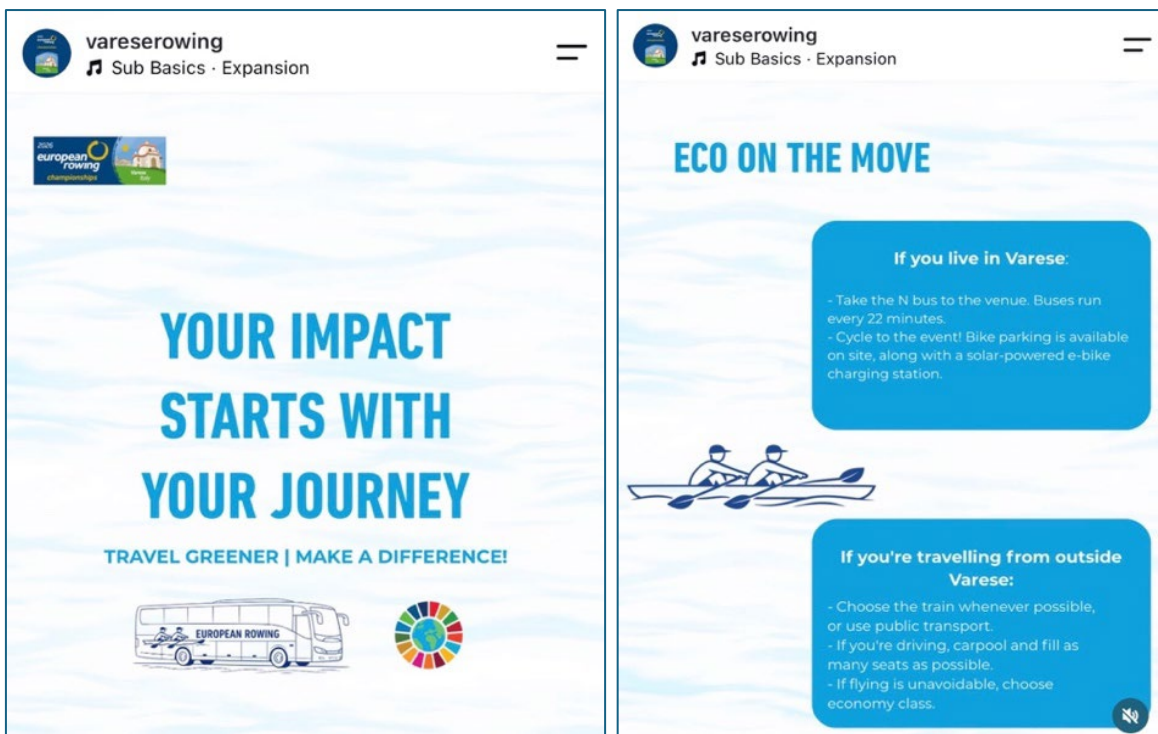
Thanks to our collaboration with Gruppo Novauto, the event's Mobility Partner, the vehicles used by the OC included **three hybrid cars and one fully electric minibus**, helping to reduce the emissions associated with event operations.



A bike rental service was available on site during the event, providing participants with a convenient and more sustainable alternative for local transportation.



Finally, **participants were encouraged to use public transport** to reach the venue. Information on available lines and departure times was shared online before the event through a dedicated post on the event's official Instagram account.



What could be improved

- Transition towards a fully electric OC vehicle fleet to further reduce emissions from event operations.
- Collaborate with the local municipality to provide free or at least discounted public transport tickets to participants.

2.2.6 Accommodation

Accommodation was planned with a focus on proximity to the competition venue, giving priority to hotels located nearby to minimise the need for daily travel by participants and reduce the associated environmental impacts.

A total of 506 people were accommodated across 13 hotels during the Championships. This included 405 members of participating teams, 32 participants from the World Rowing Development Programme and a further 69 people including World Rowing executives, staff and consultants, as well as media representatives, Swiss Timing operatives and the International Jury.

Hotel	Location	Distance from venue*	N. of guests
UNAHotels Varese	Varese	05,26 km	204
Villa Cagnola	Gazzada Schianno	09,38 km	71
Palace Hotel Varese	Varese	03,17 km	42
Dolce Milan Malpensa	Somma Lombardo	13,77 km	62
Hilton Garden Inn	Somma Lombardo	13,10 km	24
Bel Sit	Comerio	05,59 km	24
Casa Don Guanella	Barza D'Ispra	12,30 km	32
Capolago Hotel	Varese	01,96 km	16
Orange Hotel	Vergiate	10,90 km	8
Stelvio Hotel	Varese	05,10 km	5
B&B Hotel	Vergiate	11,78 km	9
Giardini del Lago	Varese	644,97 m	1
Ungheria Hotel	Varese	04,67 km	8

*Straight-line distances between each hotel and the competition venue were calculated using Google Maps.

The 13 hotels were located an average of 7,51 km from the venue. When weighted by the number of guests accommodated at each hotel, the average distance was approximately 7,62 km. The furthest hotel, Dolce Milan Malpensa, was located 13,77 km from the venue, while the closest, Giardini del Lago, was just 644,97 metres away.

What could be improved

- Identify and promote nearby hotels with sustainability certifications, policies or practices before the event, encouraging participants to prioritise more sustainable accommodation options.
- Collaborate with nearby hotels that do not have sustainability policies to develop a shared sustainability roadmap, formalised through a memorandum of understanding committing both the accommodation providers and the event to reducing their overall impact.

| 2.2.7 Carbon footprint

The organisation of an international sport event generates greenhouse gas emissions through a wide range of activities, including travel, accommodation, energy consumption and event operations.

As outlined in the Sustainability Plan, we carried out an initial estimate of the greenhouse gas emissions associated with Varese 2026. Data was collected through the collaboration of all the OC staff members, who were asked to provide relevant information on travel, accommodation, energy consumption, etc. Emissions were estimated using the **World Athletics Emission Calculator**, which is based on the emission factors and calculation methodology of the GHG protocol.

OC Fleet (during event)					
Participant	Distance	Units	Travel method	Emission factor	Total kg CO2e
Staff	114	km	Hybrid car	0,11678	13,31292
Staff	47	km	Hybrid car	0,11678	5,48866
Staff	171	km	Hybrid car	0,11678	19,96938
Staff	81	km	Electric car	0,082	6,642
TOTAL					45,41296

Generators (3)			
Fuel	Litres	Emission factor	Total kg CO2e
Diesel	2.200	2,66155	5.855,41

Waste					
Type	Quantity	Units	Disposal Method	Emission factor	Total kg CO2e
Paper	1,26	Tonnes	Recycled	70	88,2
Metals	0,13	Tonnes	Recycled	230	29,9
Plastics	1,16	Tonnes	Recycled	220	255,2
Food	0,3	Tonnes	Composted	110	33
Mixed	2,86	Tonnes	Landfill	580	1.658,8
TOTAL					2.065,1

Accommodation			
Rooms	Average n. of nights	Emission factor	Total kg CO2e
347	4,5	14,3	22.329,45

Air travel							
Start	Destination	Distance	Pax	Class	Emission factor	One way - Return	Total kg CO2e
Athens	Milan (MXP)	1522,5	1	economy	0,12572	One way	191,41
Athens	Milan (MXP)	1522,5	1	economy	0,12572	One way	191,41
Sofia	Milan (MXP)	1216,9	3	economy	0,12572	One way	458,97
Belgrade	Milan (MXP)	1056,7	3	economy	0,12572	One way	398,54
Frankfurt	Milan (MXP)	489	3	economy	0,12572	One way	184,43
Warsaw	Milan (MXP)	1152,1	9	economy	0,12572	One way	1303,58
Tallinn	Milan (MXP)	1872,7	7	economy	0,12572	One way	1648,05
Copenhagen	Milan (MXP)	1144,8	1	economy	0,12572	One way	143,92
Prague	Milan (LIN)	646,4	1	economy	0,12572	One way	81,27
Istanbul	Milan (MXP)	1686,2	15	economy	0,12572	One way	3179,84
Barcelona	Milan (MXP)	721,6	3	economy	0,12572	One way	272,16
Amsterdam	Milan (MXP)	1075,3	1	economy	0,12572	One way	135,19
Athens	Milan (MXP)	1522,5	2	economy	0,12572	One way	382,82
Prague	Milan (MXP)	646,4	26	economy	0,12572	One way	2112,90
Frankfurt	Milan (MXP)	489	40	economy	0,12572	One way	2459,08
Munich	Milan (MXP)	381,7	28	economy	0,12572	One way	1343,65
Budapest	Milan (MXP)	831,5	3	economy	0,12572	One way	313,61

Warsaw	Milan (MXP)	1152,1	10	economy	0,12572	One way	1448,42
Athens	Milan (MXP)	1522,5	19	economy	0,12572	One way	3636,77
Belgrade	Milan (MXP)	1056,7	3	economy	0,12572	One way	398,54
Warsaw	Milan (MXP)	1152,1	10	economy	0,12572	One way	1448,42
Yerevan	Milan (MXP)	2950,9	3	economy	0,12572	One way	1112,96
Chisinau	Milan (MXP)	1559,4	4	economy	0,12572	One way	784,19
Copenhagen	Milan (MXP)	1144,8	16	economy	0,12572	One way	2302,79
Bucarest	Milan (MXP)	1709,8	62	economy	0,12572	One way	13327,28
Chisinau	Milan (MXP)	1559,4	1	economy	0,12572	One way	196,05
Oslo	Milan (MXP)	1961,3	7	economy	0,12572	One way	1726,02
Warsaw	Milan (MXP)	1152,1	1	economy	0,12572	One way	144,84
Tbilisi	Milan (MXP)	2930,1	5	economy	0,12572	One way	1841,86
Chisinau	Milan (MXP)	1559,4	3	economy	0,12572	One way	588,14
Warsaw	Milan (MXP)	1152,1	38	economy	0,12572	One way	5504,00
Istanbul	Milan (MXP)	1686,2	8	economy	0,12572	One way	1695,91
Warsaw	Milan (MXP)	1152,1	9	economy	0,12572	One way	1303,58
Tel Aviv	Milan (MXP)	2709,1	1	economy	0,12572	One way	340,59
Tbilisi	Milan (MXP)	2930,1	5	economy	0,12572	One way	1841,86
Belgrade	Milan (MXP)	1056,7	1	economy	0,12572	One way	132,85
Athens	Milan (MXP)	1522,5	15	economy	0,12572	One way	2871,13
Warsaw	Milan (MXP)	1152,1	6	economy	0,12572	One way	869,05
Chisinau	Milan (MXP)	1559,4	4	economy	0,12572	One way	784,19
Pescara	Milan (MXP)	563,2	1	economy	0,12572	One way	70,81
Warsaw	Milan (MXP)	1152,1	10	economy	0,12572	One way	1448,42
Istanbul	Milan (MXP)	1686,2	15	economy	0,12572	One way	3179,84
Rome (FCO)	Milan (LIN)	470,3	2	economy	0,12572	One way	118,25
Helsinki	Milan (MXP)	1953,1	1	economy	0,12572	One way	245,54
Budapest	Milan (MXP)	831,5	3	economy	0,12572	One way	313,61
Azerbaijan	Milan (MXP)	3376,5	2	economy	0,12572	One way	848,99
Amsterdam	Milan (MXP)	797	1	economy	0,12572	One way	100,20
Prague	Milan (MXP)	646,4	20	economy	0,12572	One way	1625,31
Munich	Milan (MXP)	381,7	1	economy	0,12572	One way	47,99
Belgrade	Milan (MXP)	1056,7	3	economy	0,12572	One way	398,54
Prague	Milan (MXP)	646,4	6	economy	0,12572	One way	487,59
Chisinau	Milan (MXP)	1559,4	4	economy	0,12572	One way	784,19
Barcelona	Milan (MXP)	721,6	2	economy	0,12572	One way	181,44
Frankfurt	Milan (MXP)	489	7	economy	0,12572	One way	430,34
Warsaw	Milan (MXP)	1152,1	38	economy	0,12572	One way	5504,00
Yerevan	Milan (MXP)	2950,9	3	economy	0,12572	One way	1112,96
Tallinn	Milan (MXP)	1872,7	1	economy	0,12572	One way	235,44
Istanbul	Milan (MXP)	1686,2	6	economy	0,12572	One way	1271,93
Prague	Milan (MXP)	646,4	1	economy	0,12572	One way	81,27
Oslo	Milan (MXP)	1961,3	7	economy	0,12572	One way	1726,02
Copenhagen	Milan (MXP)	1144,8	16	economy	0,12572	One way	2302,79
Frankfurt	Milan (MXP)	489	50	economy	0,12572	One way	3073,85
Zurich	Milan (MXP)	203,3	1	economy	0,12572	One way	25,56
Bucarest	Milan (MXP)	1709,8	62	economy	0,12572	One way	13327,28
Athens	Milan (MXP)	1522,5	3	economy	0,12572	One way	574,23
Tel aviv	Milan (MXP)	2709,1	1	economy	0,12572	One way	340,59
Copenhagen	Milan (MXP)	1144,8	1	economy	0,12572	One way	143,92
Thessaloniki	Milan (MXP)	1711,1	1	economy	0,12572	One way	215,12
Frankfurt	Milan (MXP)	489	2	economy	0,12572	One way	122,95
Prague	Milan (MXP)	646,4	2	economy	0,12572	One way	162,53
Athens	Milan (MXP)	1522,5	3	economy	0,12572	One way	574,23
Budapest	Milan (MXP)	831,5	1	economy	0,12572	One way	104,54
Frankfurt	Milan (MXP)	489	1	economy	0,12572	One way	61,48
Belgrade	Milan (MXP)	1056,7	1	economy	0,12572	One way	132,85
Budapest	Milan (MXP)	831,5	1	economy	0,12572	One way	104,54
Athens	Milan (MXP)	1522,5	1	economy	0,12572	One way	191,41
Thessaloniki	Milan (MXP)	1711,1	1	economy	0,12572	One way	215,12
London (LHR)	Milan (MXP)	937,9	1	economy	0,12572	One way	117,91
Sofia	Milan (MXP)	1216,9	1	economy	0,12572	One way	152,99
Budapest	Milan (MXP)	831,5	1	economy	0,12572	Return	209,07

Budapest	Milan (MXP)	831,5	1	economy	0,12572	Return	209,07
Frankfurt (FRA)	Milan (MXP)	489	1	economy	0,12572	Return	122,95
Frankfurt (FRA)	Milan (MXP)	489	1	economy	0,12572	Return	122,95
Frankfurt (FRA)	Milan (MXP)	489	1	economy	0,12572	Return	122,95
Frankfurt (FRA)	Milan (MXP)	489	1	economy	0,12572	One way	61,48
Dublin	Milan (MXP)	1384,4	1	economy	0,12572	Return	348,09
Dublin	Milan (MXP)	1384,4	1	economy	0,12572	One way	174,05
Istanbul	Milan (MXP)	1686,2	1	economy	0,12572	One way	211,99
Madrid	Milan (MXP)	1150,9	1	economy	0,12572	Return	289,38
London (LGW)	Milan (MXP)	900,3	1	economy	0,12572	Return	226,37
London (LGW)	Milan (MXP)	900,3	1	economy	0,12572	One way	113,19
Prague	Milan (MXP)	646,4	1	economy	0,12572	Return	162,53
Barcelona	Milan (MXP)	721,6	1	economy	0,12572	One way	90,72
Manchester	Milan (MXP)	1169,3	1	economy	0,12572	Return	294,01
Manchester	Milan (MXP)	1214,4	1	economy	0,12572	Return	305,35
Zurich	Milan (MXP)	203,3	1	economy	0,12572	Return	51,12
Zurich	Milan (MXP)	203,3	1	economy	0,12572	Return	51,12
Brussels	Milan (MXP)	665,1	1	economy	0,12572	Return	167,23
Copenhagen	Milan (MXP)	1144,8	1	economy	0,12572	Return	287,85
Copenhagen	Milan (MXP)	1144,8	1	economy	0,12572	Return	287,85
Athens (ATH)	Milan (MXP)	1522,5	1	economy	0,12572	Return	382,82
Warsaw (WAW)	Milan (MXP)	1152,1	1	economy	0,12572	Return	289,68
Warsaw (WAW)	Milan (MXP)	1152,1	1	economy	0,12572	Return	289,68
Warsaw (WAW)	Milan (MXP)	1152,1	1	economy	0,12572	Return	289,68
London (LTN)	Milan (MXP)	962,7	1	economy	0,12572	Return	242,06
London (LTN)	Milan (MXP)	962,7	1	economy	0,12572	Return	242,06
London (LHR)	Milan (MXP)	937,9	1	economy	0,12572	Return	235,83
London (LHR)	Milan (MXP)	937,9	1	economy	0,12572	Return	235,83
London (LHR)	Milan (MXP)	937,9	1	economy	0,12572	Return	235,83
London (LHR)	Milan (MXP)	937,9	1	economy	0,12572	One way	117,91
Paris (CDG)	Milan (MXP)	599,3	1	economy	0,12572	Return	150,69
Bristol	Milan (MXP)	1058,5	1	economy	0,12572	Return	266,15
London (STN)	Milan (MXP)	933,5	1	economy	0,12572	Return	234,72
Milan (MXP)	Munich (MUC)	513,3	1	economy	0,12572	One way	64,53
Milan (MXP)	Brussels	665,1	1	economy	0,12572	One way	83,62
Milan (MXP)	Palma de Mallorca	834,7	1	economy	0,12572	One way	104,94
Milan (MXP)	London (STN)	933,5	1	economy	0,12572	One way	117,36
Milan (LIN)	Milan (MXP)	47,6	1	economy	0,12572	One way	5,98
TOTAL							108.755,49

Varese 2026 – CO₂e Estimate (tonnes)	
OC Fleet	0,0454
Generators	5,8554
Waste	2,0651
Accommodation	22,3295
Air travel	108,7555
TOTAL	139,0509

Based on the data currently available, the initial estimate of GHG emissions associated with Varese 2026 amounts to **139 tonnes CO₂e**. This figure does not include several other emission sources, including staff commuting to the venue before the event, staff commuting during the event, electricity consumption before and during the event (although the latter will be calculated once the electricity bill is received), train travel by participants (a small minority

of journeys), airport-hotel and hotel-venue transfers, transport of goods and materials, catering and food.

What did not go as planned

- The Sustainability Plan included the purchase of carbon credits to offset part of the event's GHG emissions. In the end, this was not done, as the budget allocated for carbon credits was instead used to purchase the 2.000 branded reusable ecocups. Given the context of the event, we considered this a more effective use of the sustainability budget.
- A survey was planned to collect participants' travel data for the carbon footprint calculation. As World Rowing was also planning to share a questionnaire, we tried to combine the two surveys to avoid duplication. Due to time constraints, this was not possible before the event, so the planned survey was not carried out.

What could be improved

- Expand the GHG emission calculation to cover additional emission sources and categorise emissions according to Scope 1, 2 and 3.
- Set clear GHG emission reduction targets for future editions or similar events.
- Create and share dedicated surveys among participants to collect data on transportation habits.

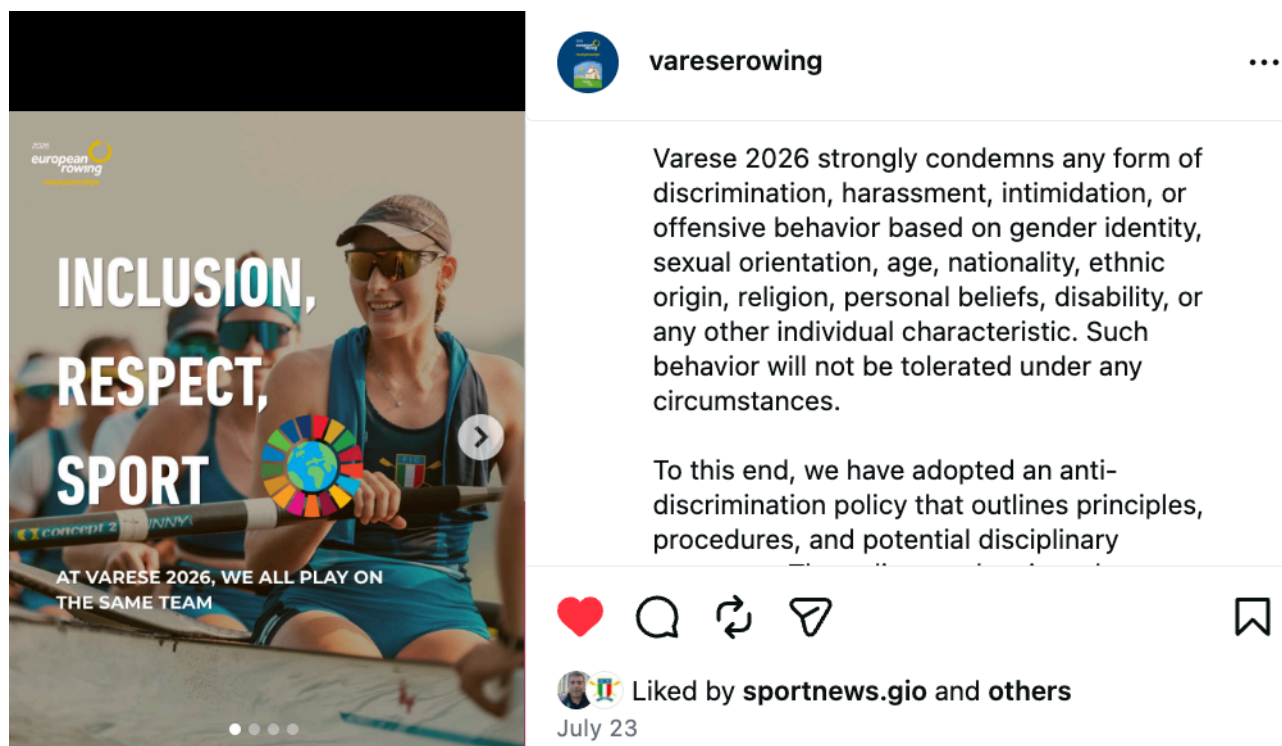
ENVIRONMENT – SUMMARY	
Planned actions	Completed?
Partnership with environmental organisations	Yes
At least 1 venue cleanup during the event	Yes
Dedicated communication on invasive alien species	Yes
Prioritise digitalisation and double-sided printing	Yes
Install 3 water refill stations	Yes
Encourage participants to bring and use refillable water bottles	Yes
Store and reuse purchased materials wherever possible	Yes
Implement a comprehensive waste separation system	Yes
Collect and share data on waste production	Yes
Comprehensive analysis of the event's supply chain	No
Vegetarian options available at hotels, food trucks and restaurants	Yes
Collaboration with a local organisation to donate food surplus and leftovers	No
Meetings and training sessions held primarily online	Yes
OC fleet only includes hybrid or electric vehicles	Yes

Public transportation information shared online before the event	Yes
Survey shared with participants to understand modes of transport	No
Priority given to accommodation structures close to the venue	Yes
Data provided on total number of hotels and average distance from venue	Yes
Initial estimate of GHG emissions associated with the event	Yes
Purchase of certified carbon credits	Replaced

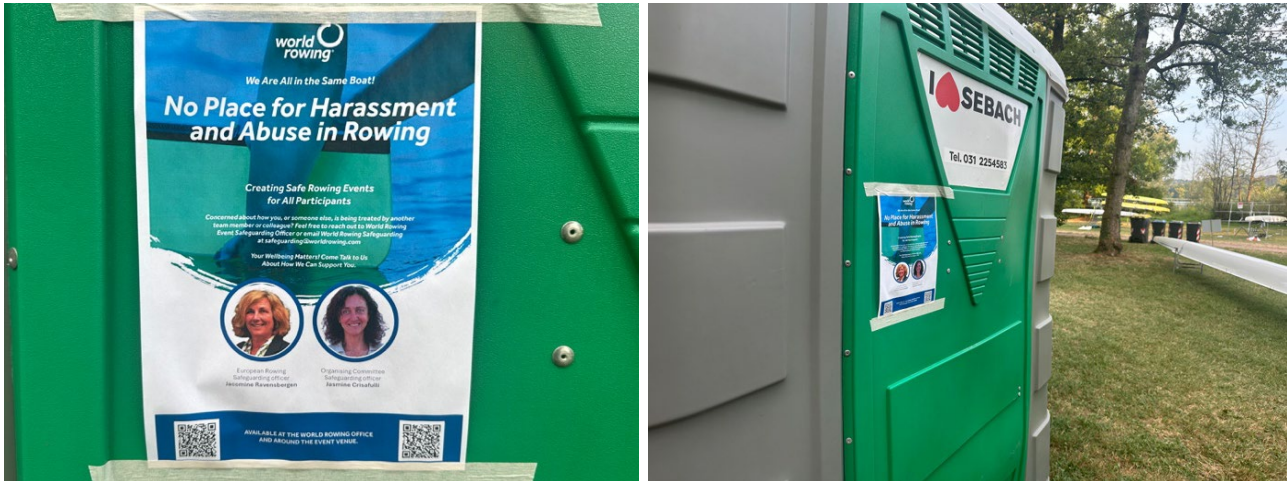
| 2.3 Inclusion & Accessibility

As part of our commitment to inclusion, respect and safeguarding, Varese 2026 adopted an event **Anti-Discrimination Policy** aimed at preventing and addressing discrimination, harassment, intimidation and other inappropriate behaviour throughout the event. The policy established a clear framework based on respect, inclusion, collaboration and accountability, while also providing a defined process for reporting and handling any incidents.

The full policy was published on the event website, making its principles and reporting procedure accessible to athletes, team officials, staff, volunteers and all other participants. In addition, a dedicated Instagram post on inclusion and respect was shared ahead of the event to raise awareness. We are pleased to share that no reports or complaints were received through the safeguarding email address.



To further reinforce the safeguarding message at the venue, posters entitled “**No Place for Harassment and Abuse in Rowing**”, developed in collaboration with European Rowing, were displayed in selected areas of the facility. The posters provided a visible reminder that harassment and abuse have no place in sport and contributed to creating a safe, respectful and inclusive environment for everyone attending Varese 2026.



To ensure an inclusive and accessible event experience, the LOC appointed an **Accessibility Officer**, who was responsible for monitoring accessibility needs and supporting people with disabilities, with particular attention to para-athletes. In the period leading up to and during the event, she worked proactively to identify and address potential accessibility issues.

Specific measures were put in place to facilitate access to the venue, including **dedicated parking passes** allowing people with disabilities to park as close as possible to the venue, as well as **reserved seating areas in front of the main tribune** to ensure wheelchair users and other spectators with disabilities could enjoy a clear view of the competition. In addition, all key information related to the Championships was made available in Italian and English.

Para-athletes were also given specific attention during key meetings with institutions and event stakeholders. In particular, **Giacomo Perini**, bronze medallist at the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games, was a key participant of the Sustainability Workshop at the Italian Rowing Hub and of the meeting with the Italian Ministry of Economics and Finance, Giancarlo Giorgetti, who attended the event.



What could be improved

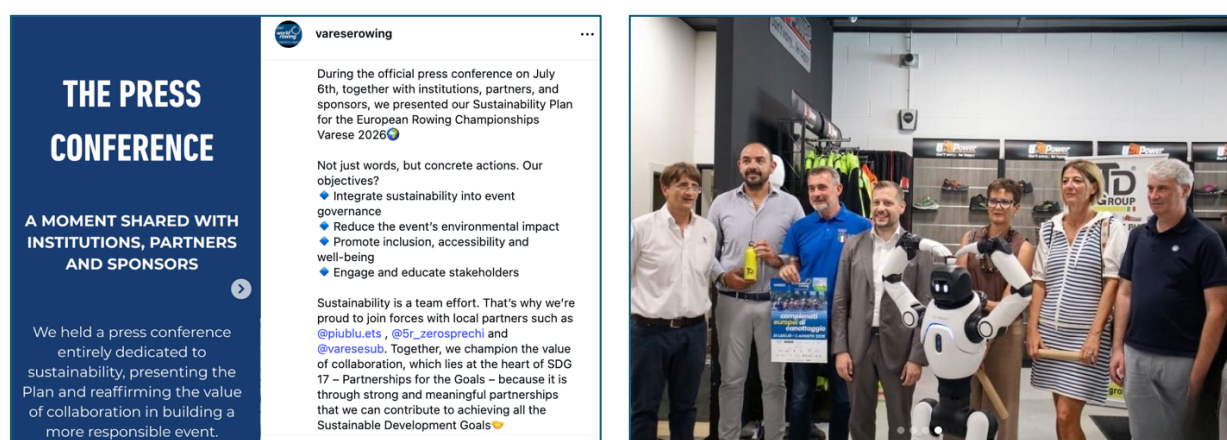
- Provide mandatory safeguarding and anti-harassment training for staff, volunteers and all accredited people before the event.
- Improve accessibility signage throughout the venue, including clear indications of accessible routes and facilities.
- Share accessibility information online before the event.
- Increase online communication around the social pillar of sustainability.

INCLUSION & ACCESSIBILITY – SUMMARY	
Planned actions	Completed?
Development and implementation of an event Anti-Discrimination policy	Yes
Accessibility information shared online before the event	No
Key event information and signage available in both Italian and English	Yes
Accessibility survey shared with participants to collect feedback	No
Full assessment of venue accessibility before the event	Yes

2.4 Communication

Communication played an important role in raising awareness among stakeholders and promoting responsible behaviour before and during the Championships. A dedicated sustainability section was created on the event website (<https://vareserowing.com/sostenibilita/>), providing key information on our sustainability approach and making the Sustainability Plan publicly available.

The Sustainability Plan was also presented during a **dedicated press conference** hosted at the headquarters of TD Group, with the participation of local institutions, including the Mayor of Varese.



A total of **13 sustainability-related posts** were published on the event's official Instagram account in the period leading up to and during the Championships. The dates and content of these posts are summarised in the table below. Some posts were shared in collaboration with the Italian Rowing Federation's official Instagram account, helping to extend the reach of the sustainability messages to a wider audience.

Sustainability Communication – Instagram Summary		
Theme	Content	Date
Governance	Sustainable Identity	05/07/2026
Governance	Sustainability Press Conference	06/07/2026
Governance	Sustainability Press Conference	06/07/2026
Governance	Sustainability Plan	07/07/2026
Governance	Our UN Sustainable Development Goals	18/07/2026
Environment	Rowing, Responsibly, Recycling	21/07/2026
Social	Inclusion, Respect, Sport	23/07/2026
Environment	Sustainable Travel	25/07/2026
Environment	Biodiversity	28/07/2026
Environment	Sustainability Guide	30/07/2026

Environment	Sustainability Partner: piublu ETS	31/07/2026
Environment	Refillable Water Bottles by TD Group	01/08/2026
Environment	Sustainability Actions Summary	01/08/2026

Sustainability was also integrated into the information provided directly to participating delegations. A dedicated sustainability section was included in the **Team Manual**, the document distributed to all participating teams ahead of the Championships.

SUSTAINABILITY

Our event aims to demonstrate how international sport events can create lasting value for people, communities and the environment. Sustainability is integrated into the planning and delivery of the Championships and reflects our commitment to protecting the unique natural setting of Lake Varese, promoting inclusion and wellbeing and generating a positive legacy for future generations.

Waste Sorting

Separate waste collection stations will be available throughout the venue. To facilitate correct waste disposal, all bins will display information in 8 different languages and will include visual examples of the materials that belong in each stream. We kindly invite all participants to spend a few extra seconds checking the information provided before disposing of any item. This small action can make a significant contribution to improving recycling rates and reducing the environmental impact of the Championships.

Water Bottles

Existing drinking fountains within the venue will be clearly marked and additional water refill stations will be installed throughout the venue. Participants are encouraged to bring a reusable water bottle and refill it multiple times during the event. This simple habit helps reduce the consumption of single-use plastic and supports our efforts to minimise waste generation.

Respect and Inclusion

Respect is one of the core values of the Championships and guides all interactions throughout the event. The Organising Committee strongly condemns any form of discrimination, harassment, intimidation, violence, abuse or inappropriate behaviour. All participants are expected to contribute to a safe, welcoming and inclusive environment for everyone. Any safeguarding concern should be reported to the Event Safeguarding Officer or to World Rowing. Further information and contact details can be found in the Safeguarding section of this Team Manual.

Clean-Ups

A few venue clean-up sessions will be organised during the Championships to help preserve the natural environment surrounding Lake Varese. All participants are warmly invited to join these activities and contribute directly to the protection of our precious venue.

In addition, we developed a **Sustainability Guide**, providing four simple and practical tips to help participants experience the event in a more responsible way. The document was made available on our official website, while the four tips were summarised in a dedicated Instagram post.

1. RESPECT EVERYONE, on and off the water



Rowing is a sport built on teamwork and respect, for teammates, opponents and the environment that hosts us. During the event, you will meet people from different countries, with cultures, habits, and opinions that may differ from your own. It is precisely this diversity that makes the experience unique!

Treat everyone with kindness, sportsmanship and openness, keeping in mind that every smile and act of cooperation helps create a positive atmosphere both on and off the racecourse. Please avoid discussions on political or religious topics that could create tension: the goal is to celebrate what unites us, not what divides us.

If any problem arises, please contact our volunteers. They will be more than happy to assist you and ensure that everyone enjoys the event in the best possible way.

2. USE YOUR WATER BOTTLE



Clean water is essential for all forms of life on our planet and is a fundamental requirement for the sport of rowing. Every year, millions of tons of plastic waste end up in rivers, lakes, seas, and oceans, threatening wildlife and disrupting fragile ecosystems. A single plastic bottle may be used for only a few minutes, yet it can remain in the environment for hundreds of years.

Each of us can make a difference! **We have installed 3 additional water dispensers** which, together with the existing water fountains, make it easy to refill your bottle with safe drinking water throughout the venue.

Please **remember to bring your own reusable water bottle** and refill it as often as you need during the day. Every single-use plastic bottle avoided helps reduce greenhouse gas emissions, protect our environment, and keep our waters clean.

3. SORT YOUR WASTE



International sport events generate a large amount of waste which, if not properly managed, can cause serious harm to the local ecosystem. Fortunately, each of us can make a difference!

We have placed waste sorting bins throughout the venue to make recycling easy and accessible. Please **take a few extra seconds to dispose of your waste correctly** by following the colors and symbols on the bins located around the venue.

Remember: any item thrown into the wrong container can compromise recycling, while waste left on the ground could end up in the water, where it would take years to decompose. As people whose passion revolves around water, we know how important it is to **keep our waters clean!**

If you're unsure where to throw something away, feel free to ask our eco-volunteers!

4. HELP US SPREAD THE MESSAGE



In July 2025, the United Nations published a report highlighting how much work remains to achieve the 17 Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. Of the 139 targets assessed, only 18% are on track to be achieved, while 17% are making moderate progress. Meanwhile, 31% show only limited progress, 17% have made no progress at all, and a further 18% have regressed compared with 2015.

Building a culture of sustainability is a shared responsibility. **Help us spread the message!**

By sharing your experience at the event through photos, stories, and examples of sustainable actions, you can inspire others to make more responsible choices and contribute to a more sustainable future.

Together, we can strengthen the culture of sustainability, both on and off the water.

On-site communication was used to reinforce specific sustainability messages. **Dedicated signs were designed and placed in strategic areas of the venue** to highlight initiatives such as waste separation and to raise awareness of the UN 2030 Agenda and the contribution that sport can make to the Sustainable Development Goals. The signs were designed using generic references so that they could also be reused at future events. To display the signs, ropes were borrowed from the Italian Rowing Federation, avoiding the need to purchase additional materials.





Sustainability messages were also integrated into the event official brochure and programme. The document included information on the OC sustainable identity and summarised our planned actions to reduce the overall negative impact of the event. The logo of one of our sustainability partners, 5R Zero Sprechi, was also clearly displayed in one of the pages.

The event announcer was also provided with a series of sustainability messages to be shared periodically throughout the competition.

SPEAKER – SUSTAINABILITY MESSAGES

BIODIVERSITY

ITA: Siamo ospiti di un ambiente naturale bellissimo: rispettiamolo. Non gettate rifiuti a terra o nel lago, e attenzione agli alberi e alla vegetazione intorno a noi.

ENG: We're guests in a beautiful natural environment: let's respect it. Please don't litter on the ground or in the lake and take care of the trees around us.

WASTE SORTING

ITA: In tutto l'impianto trovate i contenitori per la raccolta differenziata. Vi chiediamo qualche secondo in più per smaltire i rifiuti nel modo corretto: fa la differenza.

ENG: Waste sorting bins are available throughout the venue. Please take a few extra seconds to dispose of your waste correctly: it really makes a difference!

Finally, sustainability was included in both technical briefings held before the event, with a dedicated slide presenting the sustainability approach and key initiatives of the Championships. This ensured that sustainability information reached team officials and other key participants directly at an important stage before the competition.

What did not go as planned

- While some sustainability-related posts were published in collaboration with the Italian Rowing Federation, we could not establish the same type of collaboration with World Rowing.

What could be improved

- Collect data such as reach, views, reactions, shares and other engagement metrics to assess the effectiveness of the sustainability-related communication
- Engage top athletes as sustainability ambassadors to ensure that sustainability messages reach a wider and more diverse audience.

COMMUNICATION – SUMMARY	
Planned actions	Completed?
Dedicated sustainability section on the event website	Yes
Sustainability plan presented during a dedicated press conference	Yes
Sustainability messages shared through social media	Yes
Collaboration with the Italian Rowing Federation to expand content reach	Yes
Sustainability included in all official communications	Yes
Two sustainability guides developed and shared before the event	Yes
Sustainability-related signage on site to encourage behaviour change	Yes
Dedicated sustainability messages shared on screen and by commentators	Yes

3. GOING FORWARD

The Sustainability Plan provided a clear framework for integrating sustainability into the organisation of the European Rowing Championships Varese 2026. Of the 40 actions included in the Plan, 34 were fully realised, one was partially completed and five were not implemented. However, during the organisation of the Championships, we also introduced several additional initiatives that were not included in the original Plan. For example, a second venue clean-up, dedicated parking passes for people with disabilities, the purchase and distribution of 2.000 reusable ecocup, the recruitment of 5 eco-volunteers and a dedicated sustainability talk at the Italian Rowing Hub.

This experience provided the OC with valuable knowledge and practical experience across different areas of event sustainability. Although the European Rowing Championships will not return to Varese in 2027, we wish for the work started with Varese 2026 to continue through future international events hosted in the area.

Our vision was to establish the European Rowing Championships Varese 2026 as a benchmark for sustainability within the international rowing community. We hope that this Report can contribute to that vision by sharing our experience, the solutions we tested and the lessons we learned along the way.

Finally, we know that our performance was not perfect and that there is still much to improve. Sustainability, after all, is a progressive process, built over time through planning, action, measurement and learning. For this reason, we see this Report as a starting point rather than a final result. We hope that the journey started in Varese will continue, with every event taking us one step further, rowing together for sport, people and the planet.